ORCHESTRA
OR
A Poeme of Dauncing.

Iudicially prouing the true obseruation of time and measure, in the Authenticall and laudable vse of Dauncing.

Ouid. Art. Aman. lib. 1.

Si vox est, canta: si mollia brachia, salta:
Et quacunque potes dote placere, place.

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To his very Friend, Ma. Rich: Martin.

TO whom ſhall I this dauncing Poeme ſend,
This ſuddaine, raſh, halfe-capreol of my wit?
To you, firſt mouer and ſole cauſe of it
Mine-owne-ſelues better halfe, my deereſt frend.
O would you yet my Muſe ſome Honny lend
From your melliſluous tongue, whereon doth ſit
Suada *in maieſtie, that I may fit*
Theſe harſh beginnings with a ſweeter end.
You know, the modeſt Sunne full fifteene times
Bluſhing did riſe, and bluſhing did deſcend,
While I in making of theſe ill made rimes,
My golden howers vnthriftily did ſpend.
Yet if in friendſhip you theſe numbers prayſe,
I will miſpend another fifteene dayes.

ORCHESTRA.
OR
A Poeme of Dauncing.

1

WHere liues the man that neuer yet did heare
Of chaſt *Penelope*, *Vliſſes* Queene?
VVho kept her faith vnſpotted twenty yeere
Till he returnd that far away had beene,
And many men, and many townes had ſeene:
Ten yeere at ſiedge of *Troy* he lingring lay,
And ten yeere in the Midland-ſea did ſtray.

2

Homer, to whom the Muſes did carouſe
A great deepe cup with heauenly Nectar filld,
The greateſt, deepeſt cup in *Ioues* great houſe,
(For *Ioue* himſelfe had ſo expreſly willd)
He dranke of all, ne let one drop be ſpilld;
Since when, his braine that had before been dry,
Became the welſpring of all Poetry.

3

Homer doth tell in his aboundant verſe,
The long laborious trauailes of the man,
And of his Lady too he doth reherſe,
How ſhee illudes with all the Art ſhe can,
Th'vngratefull loue which other Lords began;
For of her Lord falſe Fame long ſince had ſworne,
That *Neptunes* Monſters had his carcaſſe torne.

4

All this he tells, but one thing he forgot,
One thing moſt worthy his eternall ſong,
But he was old, and blind, and ſaw it not,
Or elſe he thought he ſhould *Vliſſes* wrong,
To mingle it, his Tragick acts among.
Yet was there not in all the world of things,
A ſweeter burden for his Muſes wings.

5

The Courtly loue *Antinous* did make,
Antinous that freſh and iolly Knight,
Which of the gallants that did vndertake
To win the Widdow, had moſt wealth and might,
VVit to perſwade, and beautie to delight.
The Courtly loue he made vnto the Queene,
Homer forgot as if it had not beene,

Sing

6

Sing then *Terpſichore*, my light Muſe ſing
His gentle Art and cunning curteſie:
You Lady can remember euery thing
For you are daughter of Queene Memorie,
But ſing a plaine and eaſie Melodie:
For the ſoft meane that warbleth but the ground,
To my rude eare doth yield the ſweeteſt ſound.

7

One onely nights diſcourſe I can report,
VVhen the great Torch-bearer of heauen was gone
Downe in a maske vnto the Oceans Court,
To reuell it with *Tethis* all alone;
Antinous diſguiſed and vnknowne
Like to the ſpring in gaudie Ornament
Vnto the Caſtle of the Princeſſe went.

8

The ſoueraigne Caſtle of the rocky Ile
VVherein *Penelope* the Princeſſe lay,
Shone with a thouſand Lamps, which did exile
The dim darke ſhades, & turn'd the night to day,
Not *Ioues* blew Tent what time the Sunny ray
Behind the bulwarke of the earth retires
Is ſeene to ſparkle with more twinckling fiers.

That

9

That night the Queene came forth from farwithin,
And in the presence of her Court was seene,
For the sweet singer *Phemius* did begin
To praise the Worthies that at Troy had beene;
Somwhat of her *Vlisses* she did weene
In his graue Hymne the heau'nly man would sing,
Or of his warres, or of his wandering.

10

Pallas that houre with her sweet breath diuine
Inspir'd immortall beautie in her eyes,
That with cœlestiall glory she did shine,
Brighter then *Venus* when she doth arise
Out of the waters to adorne the skies;
The wooers all amazed doe admire,
And check their owne presumptuous desire.

11

Onely *Antinous* when at first he view'd
Her star-bright eyes that with new honour shind,
Was not dismayd, but there-with-all renew'd
The noblesse and the splendour of his mind;
And as he did fit circumstances find,
Vnto the Throne he boldly gan aduance,
And with faire maners, wooed the Queene to dance.

God-

12

GOddesse of women, sith your heau'nlinesse
Hath now vouchsaft it selfe to represent
To our dim eyes, which though they see the lesse
Yet are they blest in their astonishment;
Imitate heau'n, whose beauties excellent
Are in continuall motion day and night,
And moue thereby more wonder and delight.

13

Let me the mouer be, to turne about
Those glorious ornaments that Youth and Loue
Haue fixed in you, euery part throughout,
VVhich if you will in timely measure moue,
Not all those precious Iemms in heau'n aboue
Shall yield a sight more pleasing to behold,
VVith all their turnes and tracings manifold.

14

WIth this, the modest Princesse blusht and smil'd,
Like to a cleare and rosie euentide;
And softly did returne this answere mild,
Faire Sir; you needs must fairely be denide
VVhere your demaund cannot be satisfied.
My feete, which onely nature taught to goe,
Did neuer yet the Art of footing know.

But

15

But why perſwade you me to this new rage?
(For all diſorder and miſrule is new,)
For ſuch miſgouernment in former age
Our old diuine Foreſathers neuer knew,
VVho if they liu'd, and did the follies view (faires,
Which their fond Nephews make their chiefe af-
Would hate themſelues that had begot ſuch heires.

16

Sole heire of Vertue, and of Beautie both,
VVhence commeth it (*Antinous* replies)
That your imperious vertue is ſo loth.
To graunt your beautie her chiefe exerciſe?
Or from what ſpring doth your opinion riſe
That Dauncing is a frenzie and a rage,
Firſt knowne and vs'd in this new-fangled age?

17

Dauncing (bright Lady) then began to be,
When the firſt ſeedes whereof the world did ſpring
The Fire, Ayre, Earth, and water did agree,
By Loues perſwaſion, Natures mighty King,
To leaue their firſt diſordred combating;
And in a daunce ſuch meaſure to obſerue,
As all the world their motion ſhould preſerue.

18

Since when they ſtill are carried in a round,
And changing come one in anothers place,
Yet doe they neyther mingle nor confound,
But euery one doth keepe the bounded ſpace
VVherein the daunce doth bid it turne or trace:
This wondrous myracle did Loue deuiſe
For Dauncing is Loues proper exerciſe.

19

Like this, he fram'd the Gods eternall bower,
And of a ſhapeleſſe and confuſed maſſe
By his through-piercing and digeſting power
The turning vault of heauen framed was:
VVhoſe ſtarrie wheeles he hath ſo made to paſſe,
As that their mouings doe a muſick frame
And they themſelues, ſtill daunce vnto the ſame.

20

Or if this (All) which round about we ſee
(As idle *Morpheus* ſome ſicke braines hath taught)
Of vndeuided motes compacted bee,
How was this goodly Architecture wrought?
Or by what meanes were they together brought?
They erre that ſay they did concur by chaunce,
Loue made them meete in a well-ordered daunce.

As

21

As when *Amphion* with his charming Lire
Begot ſo ſweet a Syren of the ayre,
That with her Rethorike made the ſtones conſpire
The ruines of a Citty to repayre,
(A worke of wit and reaſons wiſe affayre) (taught
So Loues ſmooth tongue, the motes ſuch meaſure
That they ioyn'd hands, & ſo ỹ world was wrought.

22

How iuſtly then is Dauncing termed new
VVhich with the world in point of time begun?
Yea Time it ſelfe (whoſe birth *Ioue* neuer knew
And which is far more auncient then the Sun)
Had not one moment of his age outrunne
When out leapt Dauncing frō the heape of things,
And lightly rode vpon his nimble wings.

23

Reaſon hath both their pictures in her Treaſure,
VVhere Time the meaſure of all mouing is;
And Dauncing is a mouing all in meaſure,
Now if you doe reſemble that to this
And think both one, I think you think amis:
But if you iudge them Twins, together got,
And Time firſt borne, your iudgment erreth not.

Thus

24

Thus doeth it equall age with age inioy,
And yet in lustie youth for euer flowers,
Like Loue his Sire, whom Paynters make a Boy,
Yet is he eldest of the heau'nly powers;
Or like his brother Time, whose winged howers
Going and comming will not let him dye,
But still preserue him in his infancie.

25

This sayd; the Queene with her sweet lips diuine
Gently began to moue the subtile ayre,
VVhich gladly yielding, did it selfe incline
To take a shape betweene those rubies fayre
And being formed, softly did repayre
With twenty doublings in the emptie way,
Vnto *Antinous* eares, and thus did say.

26

WHat eye doth see the heau'n but doth admire
When it the mouings of the heau'ns doth see?
My selfe, if I to heau'n may once aspire,
If that be dauncing, will a Dauncer be:
But as for this your frantick iollitie
How it began, or whence you did it learne,
I neuer could with reasons eye discerne.

Antinous

27

Antinous aunſwered : Iewell of the Earth
Worthie you are that heauenly Daunce to leade:
But for you think our dauncing baſe of birth
And newly borne but of a brainſick head
I will forthwith his antique Gentry read,
And for I loue him, will his Herault be
And blaze his armes, and draw his Petigree.

28

Whē Loue had ſhapt this world, this great faire wight
That all wights elſe in his widē womb containes
And had inſtructed it to daunce aright,
A thouſand meaſures with a thouſand ſtraines,
VVhich it ſhould practiſe with delightfull paines
Vntill that fatall inſtant ſhould reuolue,
VVhen all to nothing ſhould againe reſolue:

29

The comly order and proportion faire
On euery ſide did pleaſe his wandring eye,
Till glauncing through the thin tranſparent aire
A rude diſordered rout ſhe did eſpie
Of men and women, that moſt ſpightfullie
Did one another throng, and crowd ſo ſore,
That his kind eye in pitey wept therefore.

And

30

And ſwifter then the Lightning downe he came,
Another ſhapeleſſe Chaos to digeſt,
He will begin another world to frame,
(For Loue till all be well will neuer reſt)
Then with ſuch words as cannot be expreſt
He cutts the troups, that all a ſunder fling,
And ere they wiſt, he caſts them in a ring.

31

Then did he rarifie the Element
And in the center of the ring appeare,
The beames that from his forehead ſhining went,
Begot an horrour and religious feare
In all the ſoules that round about him weare,
VVhich in their eares attentiueneſſe procures
While he with ſuch like ſounds their minds allures.

32

How doth Confuſions Mother, headlong Chance
Put reaſons noble ſquadron to the rout?
Or how ſhould you that haue the gouernance
Of Natures children, heauen and earth throughout
Preſcribe them rules, and liue your ſelues without?
VVhy ſhould your fellowſhip a trouble be,
Since mans chiefe pleaſure is ſocietie?

If

33

If ſence hath not yet taught you, learne of me
A comly moderation and diſcreet,
That your aſſemblies may well ordered be
VVhen my vniting power ſhall make you meet,
VVith heau'nly tunes it ſhall be tempered ſweet:
And be the modell of the worlds great frame,
And you Earths children, Dauncing ſhall it name.

34

Behold the world how it is whirled round,
And for it is ſo whirl'd, is named ſo;
In whoſe large volume many rules are found
Of this new Art, which it doth fairely ſhow:
For your quick eyes in wandring too and fro
From Eaſt to Weſt, on no one thing can glaunce,
But if you marke it well, it ſeemes to daunce.

35

Firſt you ſee fixt in this huge mirrour blew
Of trembling lights a number numberleſſe,
Fixt they are nam'd, but with a name vntrue,
For they are moued, and in a Daunce expreſſe
That great long yeare that doth contayne no leſſe
Then threeſcore hundreths of thoſe yeares in all
Which the Sunne makes with his courſe naturall.

What

36

VVhat if to you theſe ſparks diſordered ſeeme
As if by chaunce they had been ſcattered there?
The Gods a ſolemne meaſure doe it deeme
And ſee a iuſt proportion euery where,
And know ỹ points whence firſt their mouings were;
To which firſt points when all returne againe,
The Axeltree of Heau'n ſhall burſt in twaine.

37

Vnder that ſpangled skye, fiue wandring ſtarres,
Beſides the King of Day, and Queene of Night,
Are wheel'd around, all in their ſundry frames,
And all in ſundry meaſures doe delight:
Yet altogether keepe no meaſure right.
For by it ſelfe, each doth it ſelfe aduance,
And by it ſelfe, each doth a Galliard daunce.

38

Venus the Mother of that baſtard Loue:
Which doth vſurpe the worlds great Marſhals name,
Iuſt with the Sunne her dainty feete doth moue
And vnto him doth all her geſtures frame:
Now after, now afore, the flattering Dame
VVith diuers cunning paſſages doth erre,
Still him reſpecting that reſpects not her.

39

For that braue Sunne the Father of the Day,
Doth loue this Earth the Mother of the Night,
And like a reuellour in rich aray
Doth daunce his Galliard in his Lemmans sight,
Both back, and forth, and side-wayes passing light,
His gallant grace doth so the Gods amaze,
That all stand still and at his beautie gaze.

40

But see the Earth, when she approcheth neere,
How she for ioy doth spring and sweetly smile;
But see againe her sad and heauie cheere
When changing places he retires a while:
But those black clouds he shortly will exile,
And make them all before his presence flye
As mists consum'd before his cheerfull eye.

41

VVho doth not see the measures of the Moone
Which thirteene times she daunceth euery yeare?
And ends her pauine thirteene times as soone
As doth her brother, of whose golden heire
She borroweth part and proudly doth it weare.
Then doth she coylie turne her face aside,
That halfe her cheeke is scarce somtimes diseride.

Next

42

Next her, the pure, ſubtile, and cleanſing fire,
Is ſwiftly carried in a circle euen:
Though *Vulcan* be pronounſt by many a lyer
The onely halting God that dwells in heauen.
But that foule name may be more fitly giuen
To your falſe fier that far from heau'n is fall
And doth conſume, waſt, ſpoile, diſorder all.

43

And now behold your tender Nurſe the ayre
And common neighbour that ay runns around,
How many pictures and impreſſions faire
Within her emptie regions are there found,
Which to your ſences Dauncing doe propound?
For what are breath, ſpeech, Ecchos, muſick, winds,
But Dauncings of the ayre in ſundry kinds?

44

For when you breath, the ayre in order moues,
Now in, now out, in time and meaſure trew;
And when you ſpeake, ſo well the dauncing loues,
That doubling oft, and oft redoubling new,
With thouſand formes ſhe doth her ſelfe endew:
For all the words that from your lips repaire,
Are naught but tricks and turnings of the aire.

45

Hence is her pratling daughter Eccho borne,
That daunces to all voyces she can heare;
There is no sound so harsh that she doth scorne,
Nor any time wherein she will forbeare
The aiery pauement with her feete to weare.
And yet her hearing sence is nothing quick
For after time she endeth euery trick.

46

And thou sweet Musick, Dauncings only life,
The eares sole happines, the ayres best speach,
Loadstone of fellowship, charming rod of strife,
The soft minds Paradice, the sick minds Leach,
With thine owne tongue ỹ trees & stones canst teach
That whẽ the Aire doth daunce her finest measure,
Then art ỹ borne the Gods & mens sweet pleasure.

47

Lastly, where keepe the winds their reuelry
Their violent turnings and wild whirling hayes?
But in the Ayres tralucent gallery?
Where she her selfe is turnd a hundreth wayes,
While with those Maskers wantonly she playes;
Yet in this misrule, they such rule embrace
As two at once encomber not the place.

If

48

If then fier, ayre, wandring and fixed lights
In every prouince of th'impetiall skye,
Yeeld perfect formes of dauncing to your sights,
In vaine I teach the eare, that which the eye
With certaine view already doth deserue.
But for your eyes perceiue not all they see
In this I will your senses maister bee.

49

For loe the Sea that fleets about the Land,
And like a girdle clips her solide waste,
Musick and measure both doth vnderstand:
For his great Christall eye is alwayes cast
Vp to the Moone, and on her fixed fast.
And as she daunceth in her pallid spheere,
So daunceth he about the Center heere.

50

Somtimes his proud greene waues in order set,
One after other flow vnto the shore,
Which when they haue with many kisses wet,
They ebb away in order as before;
And to make knowne his Courtly Loue the more,
He oft doth lay aside his three-forkt Mace,
And with his armes the timerous Earth embrace.

51

Onely the Earth doth ſtand for euer ſtill,
Her rocks remoue not, nor her mountaines meete,
(Although ſome witts enricht with Learnings skill
Say heau'n ſtands firme, & that the Earth doth fleete
And ſwiftly turneth vnderneath their feete)
Yet though the Earth is euer ſtedfaſt ſeene,
On her broad breaſt hath Dauncing euer beene.

52

For thoſe blew vaines that through her body ſpred,
Thoſe ſaphire ſtreams which frō great hils do ſpring,
(The Earths great duggs: for euery wight is fed
With ſweet freſh moiſture from them iſſuing)
Obſerue a daunce in their wild wandering:
And ſtill their daunce begets a murmur ſweete,
And ſtill the murmur with the daunce doth meete.

53

Of all their wayes I loue *Meanders* path,
Which to the tunes of dying Swans doth daunce,
Such winding ſleights, ſuch turnes and tricks he hath,
Such Creekes, ſuch wrenches, and ſuch daliaunce,
That whether it be hap or heedleſſe chaunce,
In his indented courſe and wringling play
He ſeemes to daunce a perfect cunning Hay.

But

54

But wherefore doe these streames for euer runne?
To keepe themselues for euer sweet and cleare:
For let their euerlasting course be donne
They straight corrupt and foule with mud appeare.
O yee sweet Nimphs that beauties losse doe feare,
Contemne the Drugs that Phisick doth deuise,
And learne of Loue this dainty exercise.

55

See how those flowers that haue sweet Beauty too
(The onely Iewels that the Earth doth weare
When the young Sunne in brauery her doth woo)
As oft as they the whistling wind doe heare,
Doe waue their tender bodies here and there;
And though their daunce no perfect measure is,
Yet oftentimes their musick makes them kis,

56

What makes the Vine about the Elme to daunce
With turnings, windings, and imbracements round?
What makes the Load-stone to the North aduaunce
His subtile point, as if from thence he sound
His chiefe attractiue Vertue to redound?
Kind Nature first doth cause all things to loue,
Loue makes them daunce and in iust order moue.

Harke

57

Harke how the Birds doe sing, and marke their how?
Iumpe with the modulation of their layes,
They lightly leape, and skip from bow to bow;
Yet doe the Cranes deserue a greater prayse
Which keepe such measure in their ayrie wayes,
As when they all in order ranked are,
They make a perfect forme triangular.

58

In the chiefe angle flyes the watchfull guide,
And all the followers their heads doe lay
On their forgoers backs, on eyther side,
But for the Captaine hath no rest to stay
His head forwearied with the windy way,
He back retires, and then the next behind,
As his Lieuetenaunt leads them through the wind.

59

But why relate I euery singular?
Since all the worlds great fortunes and affaires
Forward and backward rapt and whirled are,
According to the musick of the spheares:
And Chaunce her selfe, her nimble feete vpbeares
On a round slipperie wheele that rowleth ay,
And turnes all states with her impetuous sway.

Learne

60

Learne then to daunce you that are Princes borne
And lawfull Lords of earthly creatures all;
Imitate them, and thereof take no scorne;
For thys new Art to them is naturall
And imitate the starres cælestiall.
For when pale Death you vitall twist shall seuer,
Your better parts must daunce with the for euer.

61

Thus Loue perswades, and all the crowne of men
That stands around doth make a murmuring;
As when the wind loosd from his hollow den,
Among the trees a gentle base doth sing,
Or as a Brooke through peebles wandering:
But in their lookes they vttered this plaine speach,
That they wold learn to daunce if loue wold teach.

62

Then first of all, hee doth demonstrate plaine
The motions seauen that are in nature found,
Vpward, and downward, forth, and back againe,
To this side, and to that, and turning round:
VVhereof, a thousand brawles he doth compound,
VVhich he doth teach vnto the multitude,
And euer with a turne they must conclude.

63

As when a Nimph arysing from the Land
Leadeth a daunce with her long watery traine
Downe to the Sea, she wries to euery hand
And euery way doth crosse the fertile plaines
But when at last she falls into the maine
Then all her trauerses concluded are,
And with the Sea her course is circulare,

64

Thus when at first Loue had them marshalled
As earst he did the shapelesse masse of things,
He taught them rounds and winding Heyes to tread,
And about trees to cast themselues in rings.
As the two Beares whom the first mouer flings
With a short turne about heauens Axeltree,
In a round daunce for euer wheeling bee.

65

But after these, as men more ciuill grew
He did more graue and solemne measures frame,
With such faire order and proportion trew
And correspondence euery way the same,
That no fault finding eye did euer blame:
For euery eye was moued at the sight
With sober wondring, and with sweet delight.

Not

66

Not thoſe old Students of the heauenly booke,
Atlas the great, *Promethius* the wiſe,
VVhich on the Starres did all their lyfe-time looke
Could euer find ſuch meaſures in the skies,
So full of change and rare varieties;
Yet all the feete whereon theſe meaſures goe,
Are onely Spondeis, ſolemne, graue, and ſloe.

70

But for more diuers and more pleaſing ſhow,
A ſwift and wandring daunce ſhe did inuent,
VVith paſſages vncertaine to and fro,
Yet with a certaine aunſwere and conſent
To the quick muſick of the Inſtrument.
Fiue was the number of the Muſicks feete,
Which ſtill the daunce did with fiue paces meete.

71

A gallant daunce, that liuely doth bewray
A ſpirit and a vertue Maſculine,
Impatient that her houſe on earth ſhould ſtay
Since ſhe her ſelfe is fierie and diuine:
Oft doth ſhe make her body vpward flyne,
With loftie turnes and capriols in the ayre,
Which with the luſtie tunes accordeth fayre.

What

69

VVhat shall I name those currant trauaſes
That on a triple Dactyle ſoote doe run
Cloſe by the ground with ſlyding paſſages,
VVherein that Dauncer greateſt prayſe hath won
VVhich with beſt order can all orders ſhun:
For euery where he wantonly muſt range,
And turne, and wind, with vnexpected change.

70

Yet is there one the moſt delightfull kind,
A lofty iumping, or a leaping round,
VVhere arme in arme, two Dauncers are entwind,
And whirle themſelues with ſtrickt embracements
And ſtill their feet an Anapeſt do ſound: (bound,
An Anapeſt is all theyr muſicks ſong,
VVhoſe firſt two feet are ſhort, & third is long.

71

As the victorious twinns of *Leda* and *Ioue*
That taught the Spartans dauncing on the ſands,
Of ſwift *Eurotas* dаunce in Heau'n aboue,
Knit and vnited with eternall hands;
Among the Starres their double Image ſtands,
VVhere both are carried with an equall pace
Together iumping in their turning race.

Thys

72

Thys is the Net wherein the Sunns bright eye
Venus and *Mars* entangled did behold,
For in thys Daunce, their armes they so imply
As each, doth seeme the other to enfold:
VVhat if lewd wits another tale haue told
Of iealous *Vulcan*, and of yron chaynes,
Yet this true sence that forged lye containes.

73

These various formes of dauncing, Loue did frame,
And beside these, a hundred millions mor,
And as he did inuent, he taught the same
VVith goodly iesture, and with comly show,
Now keeping state, now humbly honoring low,
And euer for the persons and the place
He taught most fit, and best according grace.

74

For Loue, within his fertile working braine
Did then conceiue those gracious Virgins three,
VVhose ciuill moderation did maintaine
All decent order and conueniencie,
And faire respect, and seemlie modestie:
And then he thought it fit they should be borne,
That their sweet presence dauncing might adorne.

75

Hence is it that these Graces painted are
With hand in hand dauncing an endlesse round:
And with regarding eyes, that still beware
That there be no disgrace amongst them found;
With equall foote they beate the flowry ground,
Laughing, or singing, as their passions will,
Yet nothing that they doe becomes them ill.

76

Thus Loue tanght men, and men thus learnd of Loue
Sweet Musicks sound with feete to counterfaite,
Which was long time before high thundering *Ioue*
Was lifted vp to heau'ns imperiall seate.
For though by birth he were the Prince of *Creete*,
Nor *Creete*, nor Heau'n, should ỳ yong Prince haue seen
If Dancers with their Timbrels had not been.

77

Since when all ceremonious misteries,
All Sacred Orgies and religious rights,
All pomps, and tryumphs, and solemnities,
All Funerals, Nuptials, and like publike sights,
All Parliaments of peace, and warlike fights,
All learned Arts, and euery great affaire
A liuely shape of Dauncing seemes to beare.

For

78

For what did he who with his ten-tong'd Lute
Gaue Beasts and blocks an vnderstanding eare?
Or rather into bestiall minds and brute
Shed and infus'd the beames of reason cleare?
Doubtlesse for men that rude and sauage were
A ciuill forme of dauncing he deuis'd,
VVherewith vnto their Gods they sacrifiz'd.

79

So did *Musæus*, so *Amphion* did,
And *Linus* with his sweet enchanting song,
And he whose hand the earth of monsters rid
And had mens eares fast chayned to his tong:
And *Theseus* to his wood-borne slaues among
Vs'd dauncing as the finest pollicie
To plant religion and societie.

80

And therefore now the Thracian *Orpheus* Lire
And *Hercules* him selfe ate stellified;
And in high heau'n amidst the starry Quire
Dauncing their parts continually doe slide:
So on the Zodiake *Ganimede* doth ride,
And so is *Hebe* with the Muses nine
For pleasing *Iowe* with dauncing, made diuine.

VVhere-

81

VVherefore was *Proteus* fayd himselfe to change
Into a streame, a Lyon, and a tree,
And many other formes fantastique strange
As in his fickle thought he wisht to be?
But that he daunc'd with such facilitie.
As like a Lyon he could pace with pride,
Ply like a Plant, and like a Riuer slide.

82

And how was *Cæneus* made at first a man,
And then a woman, then a man againe
But in a Daunce? which when he first began
Hee the mans part in measure did sustaine.
But when he chang'd into a second straine
He daunc'd the womans part another spacy
And then return'd into his former place.

83

Hence sprang the fable of *Tiresias*
That he the pleasure of both sexes tryde:
For in a daunce hee man and woman was
By often change of place from side to side.
But for the woman easily did slide
And smoothly swim with cunning hidden Art,
Hee tooke more pleasure in a womans part.

So

84

So to a fish *Venus* herſelfe did change,
And ſwimming through the ſoft and yeelding waue,
VVith gentle motions did ſo ſmoothly range
As none might ſee where ſhe the water draue:
But this plaine truth that falſed fable gaue
That ſhe did daunce with ſlyding eaſines,
Plyant and quick in wandring paſſages,

85

And merry *Bacchus* practis'd dauncing to,
And to the Lydian numbers rounds did make:
The like he did in th'Eaſterne India doo,
And taught them all when *Phœbus* did awake,
And when at night he did his Coach forſake:
To honor heau'n, and heau'ns great roling eie
VVith turning daunces, and with melodie.

86

Thus they who firſt did found a common-weale,
And they who firſt Religion did ordaine,
By dauncing firſt the peoples harts did ſteale,
Of whom we now a thouſand tales doe faine.
Yet doe we now their perfect rules retaine,
And vſe them ſtill in ſuch deuiſes new
As in the world long ſince their withering grew.

87

For after Townes and Kingdomes founded were
Betweene great States arose well-ordered war,
VVherein most perfect measure doth appeare
VVhether their well-set ranks respected are
In Quadrant forme or Semicircular:
Or else the March, when all the troups adaunce
Vnto the Drum, in gallant order daunce.

88

And after warrs, when white-wing'd victory
Is with a glorious tryumph beautified,
And euery one doth *Io Io* cry,
VVhiles all in gold the Conquerour doth ride,
The solemne pompe that fils the Citty wide
Obserues such ranke and measure euery where,
As if they altogether dauncing were.

89

The like iust order Mourners doe obserue,
(But with vnlike affection and attire)
VVhen some great man that nobly did deserue
And whom his friends impatiently desire
Is brought with honour to his latest fire:
The dead corps too in that sad daunce is mou'd,
As if both dead and liuing, dauncing lou'd.

90

A diuerſe cauſe, but like ſolemnitie
Vnto the Temple leades the baſhfull bride,
VVhich bluſheth like the Indian Iuorie
VVhich is with dip of Tyrian purple died:
A golden troope doth paſſe on euery ſide
Of flouriſhing young men and Virgins gay,
Which keepe faire meaſure all the flowry way.

91

And not alone the generall multitude,
But thoſe choiſe *Neſtors* which in counſell graue
Of Citties, and of Kingdomes doe conclude,
Moſt comly order in their Seſſions haue:
Wherefore the wiſe Theſſalians euer gaue
The name of Leader of their Countries daunce
To him that had their Countries gouernaunce.

92

And thoſe great Maiſters of the liberall Arts
In all their ſeuerall Schooles doe Dauncing teach:
For humble Grammer firſt doth ſet the parts
Of congruent and well-according ſpeach:
Which Rhetorick whoſe ſtate ỹ clouds doth reach,
And heau'nly Poetry doe forward lead,
And diuers Meaſures, diuerſly doe tread.

93

For Rhetorick clothing ſpeech in rich aray
In looſer numbers teacheth her to range,
VVith twentie tropes, and turnings euery way,
And various figures, and licentious change:
But Poetry with rule and order ſtrange
So curiouſly doth moue each ſingle pace,
As all is mard if ſhe one foote miſplace.

94

Theſe Arts of ſpeach the guides and Marſhals are,
But Logick leadeth Reaſon in a daunce,
(Reaſon the Cynoſure and bright Load-ſtar
In this worlds Sea t'auoid the rock of Chaunce)
For with cloſe following and continuance
One reaſon doth another ſo enſue,
As in conluſion ſtill the daunce is true.

95

So Muſick to her owne ſweet tunes doth trip
VVith tricks of, 3, 5, 8, 15, and more:
So doth the Art of Numbring ſeeme to skip
From eu'n to odd in her proportion'd ſcore:
So doe thoſe skils whoſe quick eyes doe explore
The iuſt dimenſion both of earth and heau'n
In all their rules obſerue a meaſure eu'n.

Loe

96

Loe this is Dauncings true nobilitie.
Dauncing the child of Muſick and of Loue,
Dauncing it ſelfe both lóue and harmony,
VVhere all agree, and all in order moue;
Dauncing the Art that all Arts doe approue:
The faire Caracter of the worlds conſent,
The heau'ns true figure, and th'earths ornament.

97

THE Queene, whoſe dainty eares had borne too (long
The tedious praiſe of ſy ſhe did deſpiſe,
Adding once more the muſick of the tongue
To the ſweet ſpeech of her alluring eyes,
Began to aunſwer in ſuch winning wiſe
As that forthwith *Antinous* tongue was tyde,
His eyes faſt fixt, his eares were open wide.

98

Forſooth (quoth ſhe) great glory you haue won
To your trim Minion Dauncing all this while,
By blazing him Loues firſt begotten ſonne;
Of euery ill the hateſull Father vile
That doth the world with ſorceries beguile:
Cunningly mad, religiouſly prophane,
Wits monſter, Reaſons canker, Sences bane.

99

Loue taught the mother that vnkind desire
To wash her hands in her owne Infants blood;
Loue taught the daughter to betray her Sire
Into most base vnworthy seruitude;
Loue taught the brother to prepare such foode
To feast his brothers, that the all-seeing Sun
Wrapt in a clowd, that wicked sight did shun.

100

And euen this selfe same Loue hath dauncing taught,
An Art that sheweth th'*Idea* of his mind
With vainesse, frenzie, and misorder fraught;
Sometimes with blood and cruelties vnkind:
For in a daunce, *Tereus* mad wife did finde
Fit time and place by murthering her sonne,
T'auenge the wrong his trayterous Sire had done.

101

What meane the Mermayds when they daunce and sing
But certaine death vnto the Marriner?
What tydings doe the dauncing Dilphins bring
But that some dangerous storme approcheth nere?
Then sith both Loue & Dauncing lyueries beare
Of such ill hap, vnhappy may they proue,
That sitting free, will either daunce or loue.

Yet

102

YEt once againe *Antinous* did reply,
Great Queene, condemne not Loue the innocent,
For this miſchieuous Luſt, which traiterouſly
Vſurps his Name, and ſteales his ornament:
For that true Loue which dauncing did inuent,
Is he that tun'd the worlds whole harmony,
And linkt all men in ſweet ſocietie.

103

He firſt extracted from th'earth-mingled mind
That heau'nly fire, or quinteſsence diuine,
VVhich doth ſuch ſimpathy in beauty find
As is betweene the Elme and fruitfull Vine,
And ſo to beautie euer doth encline.
Liues life it is, and cordiall to the hart,
And of our better part, the better part.

104

Thys is true Loue, by that true *Cupid* got
VVhich daunceth Galliards in your amorous eyes,
But to your frozen hart approcheth not,
Onely your hart he dares not enterprize.
And yet through euery other part he flyes,
And euery where he nimbly daunceth now,
That in your ſelfe, your ſelfe perceiue not how.

For

105

For your sweet beauty daintily transfus'd
VVith due proportion throughout euery part,
VVhat is it but a daunce where Loue hath vs'd
His finer cunning, and more curious Art?
VVhere all the Elements themselues impart,
And turne, and wind, & mingle with such measure,
That th'eye that sees it, surfeits with the pleasure.

106

Loue in the twinckling of your eylids daunceth,
Loue daunceth in your pulses and your vaines,
Loue whē you sow your needles poynt aduaunceth,
And makes it daunce a thousand curious straines
Of winding rounds, whereof the forme remaines,
To shew, that your faire hands can daunce ỹ Hey,
VVhich your fine feet would learne as wel as they.

107

And when your Iuory fingers touch the strings
Of any siluer-sounding instrument,
Loue makes thē daunce to those sweet murmurings,
VVith busie skill, and cunning excellent:
O that your feet those tunes would represent
With artificiall motions to and fro,
That Loue this Art in euery part might shoe.

Yet

108

Yet your faire ſoule which came from heau'n aboue,
To rule thys houſe, another heau'n below,
VVith diuers powers in harmony doth moue,
And all the vertues that from her doe flow,
In a round meaſure hand in hand doe goe.
Could I now ſee as I conceiue thys Daunce,
VVonder and Loue would caſt me in a traunce.

109

The richeſt Iewell in all the heau'nly Treaſure
That euer yet vnto the Earth was ſhowne,
Is perfect Concord, th'onely perfect pleaſure
That wretched Earth-borne men haue euer knowne,
For many harts it doth compound in one:
That what ſo one doth will, or ſpeake, or doe,
VVith one conſent they all agree thereto.

110

Concords true picture ſhineth in thys Art,
VVhere diuers men and women ranked be,
And euery one doth daunce a ſeuerall part,
Yet all as one, in meaſure doe agree,
Obſeruing perfect vniformitie:
All turne together, all together trace,
And all together honor and embrace.

111

If they whom ſacred Loue hath link't in one,
Doe, as they daunce, in all theyr courſe of life
Neuer ſhall burning griefe nor bitter mone,
Nor factious difference, nor vnkind ſtriſe,
Ariſe betwixt the husband and the wife.
For whether forth or back, or round he goe,
As the man doth, ſo muſt the woman doe.

112

VVhat if by often enterchange of place
Sometime the woman get the vpper hand?
That is but done for more delightfull grace,
For on that part ſhee doth not euer ſtand:
But as the Meaſures law doth her commaund
Shee wheeles about, and ere the daunce doth end,
Into her former place ſhee doth tranſcend.

113

But not alone this coreſpondence meet
And vniforme conſent doth dauncing praiſe,
For Comlines the chyld of order ſweet
Enamels it with her eye-pleaſing raies:
Faire Comlines, ten hundred thouſand waies
Through dauncing ſhedds it ſelfe, & makes it ſhine
VVith glorious beauty, and with grace diuine.

114

For Comlines is a disposing faire
Of things and actions in fit time and place,
VVhich doth in dauncing shew it selfe most cleere,
VVhē troopes confus'd which here & there do trace
VVithout distinguishment or bounded space,
By dauncing rule, into such ranks are brought,
As glads the eye, and rauisheth the thought.

115

Then why should reason iudge that reasonles
VVhich is wits of-spring, and the worke of Art,
Image of concord, and of comlines.
VVho sees a clock moouing in euery part,
A sayling Pinnesse, or a wheeling Cart,
But thinks that reason ere it came to passe
The first impulsiue cause and mouer was?

116

VVho sees an Armie all in ranke aduaunce
But deemes a wise Commaunder is in place
Which leadeth on that braue victorious daunce?
Much more in dauncings Art, in dauncings grace
Blindnes it selfe may reasons foorstep trace:
For of Loues Maze it is the curious plot,
And of mans fellowship the true-loue knot.

117

But if these eyes of yours, (Load-starrs of lone
Shewing the worlds great daunce to your minds eye)
Cannot with all theyr demonstrations moue
Kind apprehension in your fantasie
Of Dauncings vertue, and nobilitie:
How can my barbarous tongue win you thereto
which heau'n & earths faire speech could neuer do?

118

O Loue my King: if all my wit and power
Haue done you all the seruice that they can,
O be you present in this present hower,
And helpe your seruant and your true Leige-man
End that perswasion which I earst began:
For who in praise of dauncing can perswade
With such sweet force as Loue, & dauncing made.

119

LOue heard his prayer, and swifter then the wind
Like to a Page, in habit, face, and speech,
He came, and stood *Antinous* behind,
And many secrets to his thoughts did teach.
At last, a christall Mirrour he did reach
Vnto his hands, that he with one rash view,
All formes therein by Loues reuealing knew.

And

120

And humbly honoring, gaue it to the Queene
With this faire ſpeech: See fairеſt Queene (quoth he)
The faireſt ſight that euer ſhall be ſeene,
And th'onely wonder of poſteritie,
The richeſt worke in Natures treaſury;
VVhich ſhe diſdaines to ſhew on this worlds ſtage,
And thinks it far too good for our rude age.

121

But in another world deuided far,
In the great, fortunate, triangled Ile,
Thriſe twelue degrees remou'd from the North ſtar
Shee will this glorious workmanſhip compile
Which ſhee hath been conceiuing all thys while
Since the worlds birth, & will bring forth at laſt,
When ſixe and twenty hundreth yeeres are paſt.

122

PEnelope the Queene when ſhe had view'd
The ſtrange-eye-dazeling-admirable ſight,
Faine would haue praiſd the ſtate and pulchritude,
But ſhe was ſtroken dumbe with wonder quite,
Yet her ſweet mind retayn'd her thinking might:
Her rauiſht minde in heau'nly thoughts did dwel,
But what ſhe thought, no mortall tongue can tell.

You

123

You Lady Muſe, whom *Ioue* the Counſellour
Begot of Memorie, wiſdoms Treaſureſſe,
To your diuining tongue is giuen a power
Of vttering ſecrets large and limitleſſe:
You can *Penelopes* ſtrange thoughts expreſſe
Which ſhe conceiu'd, & thé would faine haue told,
VVhen ſhee the wondrous Chriſtall did behold.

124

Her winged thoughts bore vp her minde ſo hie
As that ſhee weend ſhee ſaw the glorious throne
VVhere the bright Moone doth ſit in maieſtie,
A thouſand ſparkling ſtarres about her ſhone,
But ſhe herſelfe did ſparkle more alone
Then all thoſe thouſand beauties would haue done
If they had been confounded all in one.

125

And yet ſhe thought thoſe ſtarrs mou'd in ſuch mea-
To doe their Soueraigne honor & delight, (ſure
As ſooth'd her minde vV ſweet enchanting pleaſure
Although the various change amaz'd her ſight,
And her weake iudgement dyd entangle quite:
Beſide, theyr mouing made thẽ ſhine more cleere,
As Diamonds mou'd, more ſparkling do appeare.

This

126

Thys was the Picture of her wondrous thought;
But who can wonder that her thought was so,
Sith *Vulcan* King of fire, that Mirrour wrought
(Which things to come, present, & past doth know)
And there did represent in liuely show;
Our glorious Englisſh Courts diuine Image
As it ſhould be in this our golden age.

127

Away *Terpſichore*, light Muſe away,
And come *Vranie*, Propheteſſe diuine;
Come Muſe of heau'n, my burning thirſt allay,
Euen now, for want of ſacred drinke I tine.
In heau'nly moyſture dip thys Pen of mine,
And let my mouth with Nectar ouerflow,
For I muſt more then mortall glory ſhow.

128

O that I had *Homers* aboundant vaine,
I would heereof another *Ilias* make,
Or els the man of *Mantuas* charmed braine
In whoſe large throat great *Ioue* the thunder ſpake.
O that I could old *Geſſeries* Muſe awake,
Or borrow *Colins* fayre heroike ſtile,
Or ſmooth my rimes with *Delias* ſeruants file.

129

O could I ſweet Companion, ſing like you,
VVhich of a ſhadow, vnder a ſhadow ſing;
Or like faire *Salues* lad louer true,
Or like the Bay, the Marigolds darling,
VVhoſe ſu ldaine verſe Loue couers with his wing:
O that your braines were mingled all with mine,
T'inlarge my wit for this great worke diuine.

130

Yet *Astrophell* might one for all ſuffize,
VVhoſe ſupple Muſe Camelion-like doth change
Into all formes of excellent deuiſe:
So might the Swallow, whoſe ſwift Muſe doth range
Through rare *Ideas*, and inuentions ſtrange,
And euer doth enioy her ioyfull ſpring,
And ſweeter then the Nightingale doth ſing.

131

O that I might that ſinging Swallow heare
To whom I owe my ſeruice and my loue,
His ſugred tunes would ſo enchant mine eare,
And in my mind ſuch ſacred fury moue,
As I ſhould knock at heau'ns great gate aboue
With my proude rimes, while of this heau'nly ſtate
I doe aſpire the ſhadow to relate.

FINIS.